

SENATE BILL 3492

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
Chapter 3, Part 3; Title 40 and Title 49, to enact  
the "Educate, Don't Incarcerate Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Educate, Don't Incarcerate Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-308, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(e)

(1) The office of research and education accountability in the comptroller's office shall conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a program to redirect those persons who commit nonviolent crimes to take and complete individualized educational programs in lieu of incarceration.

(2) The study shall consider at a minimum the following:

(A) What type of educational programs should be offered and the content to be provided that will be the most effective in preventing recidivism as well as fostering in each individual completing the program the desire to become a productive citizen of society;

(B) Who will teach the courses and where and when the courses will be offered;

(C) Who should qualify for such alternate type of program;

(D) A manner of monitoring individuals while involved in the educational program with consideration being given to the use of monitoring bracelets;

(E) A system to track the recidivism of those who complete the educational programs;

(F) A system to expunge the record of an individual completing the program as designed for the individual;

(G) A method to redirect funds to the educational programs which would otherwise be dedicated and used for incarcerating individuals who are in the educational programs; and

(H) Any other issues that may be relevant to the study.

(3) The results of the study shall be completed and submitted no later than January 1, 2013, to the governor and the general assembly, together with suggested legislation to accomplish the goals of the study.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.